

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (*Currently amended*) An isolated peptide fragment of a natural cytotoxicity receptor of an NK cell, comprising a linker peptide connecting the extracellular domain of the receptor to the transmembrane portion of the receptor, wherein the isolated peptide fragment is about 10-100 amino acid residues in length and wherein said peptide fragment exhibiting-exhibits at least one activity selected from binding to a viral infected cell or binding to a tumor cell.
2. (*Previously presented*) The peptide fragment of claim 1 comprising at least one glycosylated residue.
3. (*Previously presented*) The peptide fragment of claim 1 wherein the natural cytotoxicity receptor of the NK cell is selected from NKp46 and NKp44.
4. (*Currently amended*) The isolated peptide fragment of the human NKp46 receptor according to claim 3 comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, or an analog thereof, the peptide having the ability to bind to target cells selected from viral-infected cells and tumor cells, ~~an active fragment, an isoform, an analog or a derivative thereof,~~ with the proviso that said peptide is other than SEQ ID NOS:1 and 2.
5. (*Previously presented*) The peptide fragment of claim 4 wherein the target cell is of a warm-blooded vertebrate.
6. (*Previously presented*) The peptide fragment of claim 5 wherein the target cell is of human origin.
7. (*Previously presented*) The peptide fragment of claim 4 comprising a minimal epitope of NKp46 receptor having ability to bind to viral-infected cells.

8. (*Previously presented*) The peptide fragment of claim 7 comprising a glycosylated residue corresponding to threonine at position 225 of isoform a of the human NKp46 receptor.
9. (*Previously presented*) The peptide of claim 7 wherein the glycosylated residue comprises sialic acid.
10. (*Currently amended*) The peptide fragment of claim 4 comprising from about ~~10-25~~ to ~~100-75~~ amino acids.
11. (*Previously presented*) The peptide fragment of claim 4 comprising from about 30 to 60 amino acids.
12. - 19. (*Withdrawn*)
20. (*Currently amended*) A fusion protein comprising ~~a peptide wherein said peptide is an isolated peptide fragment of a natural cytotoxicity receptor of an NK cell, and further comprising a molecule selected from an immunoglobulin (Ig) molecule or a fragment thereof, and a cytotoxic substance; the peptide fragment comprising the~~ a linker peptide connecting the extracellular domain of the receptor to the transmembrane portion of the receptor, wherein the peptide fragment is about 10-100 amino acid residues in length; wherein said fusion protein comprising said peptide fragment exhibiting ~~exhibits~~ at least one activity selected from binding to a viral infected cell or binding to a tumor cell; and wherein said fusion protein is other than the fusion proteins of SEQ ID NOS:13-~~18~~16.
21. (*Original*) The fusion protein of claim 20 manufactured by recombinant DNA technology or chemical synthesis.
22. (*Currently amended*) The fusion protein of claim ~~21~~20 comprising ~~a~~ the peptide fragment covalently conjugated to a molecule selected from an immunoglobulin (Ig) molecule or a fragment thereof, and a cytotoxic substance.

23. (*Currently amended*) The fusion protein of claim 22 wherein the peptide fragment is covalently conjugated to the Fc fragment of said immunoglobulin molecule.
24. (*Currently amended*) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a peptide wherein said peptide is an isolated fragment of a natural cytotoxicity receptor of an NK cell, comprising ~~the~~ a linker peptide connecting the extracellular domain of the receptor to the transmembrane portion of the receptor, wherein the isolated peptide fragment is about 10-100 amino acid residues in length and wherein said peptide fragment ~~exhibiting~~ exhibits at least one activity selected from binding to a viral infected cell or binding to a tumor cell.
25. (*Original*) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24 further comprising pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, carriers or excipients.
26. (*Previously presented*) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a fusion protein according to claim 20.
27. (*Original*) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26 further comprising pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, carriers or excipients.
28. – 33. (*Canceled*)
34. – 46. (*Withdrawn*)
47. (*Currently amended*) A variant polypeptide comprising NKp46 receptor polypeptide or an active fragment thereof having at least a single amino acid substitution in an epitope required for the recognition of viral-infected cells or tumor cells, wherein the epitope is in the proximal domain of the NKp46 receptor.
48. (*Currently amended*) The variant polypeptide of claim 47, wherein the single amino acid substitution of NKp46 isoform a is Threonine 225 replaced by an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Serine, Alanine and Asparagine.